

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 OPIC-03 L-03 SAM-01 OMB-01 /069 W

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P R 051619Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4858

INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6554

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN, PO

SUBJ: SIGNETICS DECIDES TO TERMINATE ITS PORTUGUESE
OPERATIONS

REF LISBON 6488

1. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR CALLED ON SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE TREASURY NOV 5 TO DISCUSS APPARENT INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FIRMS THAT ARE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING CLOSING THEIR PORTUGUESE FACTORIES. WITHOUT MENTIONING SIGNETICS BY NAME, SECRETARY WAS ASKED WHAT GOP COULD DO TO ASSIST A FIRM THAT IS LOSING AN ESTIMATED \$100,000 EACH MONTH. FIRM WAS DESCRIBED AS MEDIUM-SIZED COMPANY WITH APPROXIMATELY 200 WORKERS PRODUCING FOR EXPORT MARKET.

2. SECRETARY OF STATE OFFERED NO IMMEDIATE SUGGESTIONS. HE INQUIRED, INSTEAD, AS TO WHAT TYPE OF ASSISTANCE FIRM MIGHT EXPECT. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR STATED THAT HE COULD NOT PROPERLY ANSWER THAT QUESTION, BUT SUGGESTED GOP MIGHT CONSIDER SOME FORM OF SPECIAL BANK CREDIT, EMPLOYMENT SUBSIDY OR EXPORT ASSISTANCE. SECRETARY, FOLLOWING NORMAL PORTUGUESE PRACTICES, ASKED FOR BRIEF PAPER OUTLINING PROBLEM AND SUGGESTING POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS. EMBASSY WOULD PREFER TO PROVIDE NONCOMMITTAL LETTER SIMPLY TRANSMITTING DOCUMENT PREPARED BY SIGNETICS, AS WAS DONE
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IN CASE OF BLUE BELL (LISBON 6487). THAT PROCEDURE DOES NOT

APPEAR TO BE VIABLE, HOWEVER, IN THIS CASE. UNLESS DEPARTMENT OBJECTS, THEREFORE, EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE PAPER PHRASED IN HYPOTHETICAL TERMS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS FOREGOING TO MR. DONALD AANESTAD OF SIGNETICS IN SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA (TELEPHONE: (408) 739-7700).

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS APPROACH MAY NOT PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULT FOR SIGNETICS, EMBASSY HOPEFUL THAT DISCUSSION WILL ALERT GOP, AND ESPECIALLY MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TO SERIOUS THREAT OF IMPENDING PLANT CLOSURES IF GOP DOES NOT ACT QUICKLY. CARLUCCI

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